



Washington State
Liquor Control Board

Liquor Control Board Interim Policy BIP 07-2011

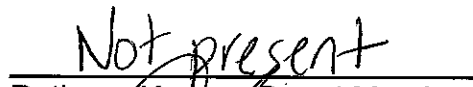
Subject: Self Service Beer Taps

Effective Date: August 10, 2011

Ending Date: Upon adoption of rules to implement this policy.

Approved:


Sharon Foster, Chairman


Ruthann Kurose, Board Member


Chris Marr, Board Member

Purpose:

The purpose of Liquor Control Board Interim Policy 07-2011 is to provide the requirements to allow self service beer taps at a liquor licensed premises.

Background:

At the June 29, 2011 board meeting, information was presented to the board members from two manufacturers representing self-service beer tap dispensing devices. The vendors are interested in selling these systems to licensed liquor establishments in Washington State. The two methods of delivery are similar, with beer dispensed through a series of pipes or lines to each table where taps have been installed.

How they work: After the customer's ID has been verified, they purchase an amount and type of beer that is programmed into a centralized control unit. The customer uses the tap to dispense the beer into a glass. The licensee can remotely control the flow of beer at the tap, measure the amount dispensed and consumed, and can deactivate the system. After this deactivation, a staff member interacts with the customer to check for signs of intoxication before the system is reactivated to dispense additional beer.

The customers are not serving themselves because the licensee's employee is serving them by activating the system, instead of bringing a pitcher of beer to the table. The guest can't serve themselves without the server first initiating service.

Policy Statement:

The requirements for an on-premises liquor licensee to use self-service beer taps at their licensed premises are as follows:

- The licensee must maintain adequate staff to monitor for potential over service/consumption
- Employees responsible for operating the self-service beer taps must be MAST certified;
- The employee must first check ID for no signs of intoxication prior to activating the system at the table;
- The system's default must be set to an inactive status so that no beer can be dispensed from the table tap without the server activating it;
- The system must be programmed to automatically deactivate after a certain amount of beer has been dispensed;
- Limit the number of glasses given to each customer to one; and
- Give employees the ability to deactivate the system both at the table and remotely, which allows them to control the amount of beer dispensed at all times.